

## LIOCHEM: AN ONGOING PARTNERSHIP FOR LONG-TERM SUCCESS

**ABOUT LIOCHEM INC.** LioChem was established in Conyers, Georgia, in 1988 as part of the Toyo Ink Group. The Japanese-owned company merged Japanese technology with American manufacturing concepts to produce high quality plastic colorants, printing inks, and coatings. Their products are used in a variety of applications including automotive, packaging, furniture, construction, and sporting good products

**THE CHALLENGE.** LioChem has always worked hard to stay on the cutting edge of their industry, but in 2017, after nearly 30 years in business, the company's leadership felt that it was time to evaluate their day-to-day operations for opportunities for improvement. The organization needed to realign with key objectives following recent years of high competition, economic recovery, and diluted resources. In addition, they wanted to begin looking forward to the next generation of products and solutions to help the company grow.

LioChem has formed a close relationship with Georgia Tech. The management team at LioChem has taken advantage of Georgia Tech's co-op student program, regulatory and ISO consulting, professional education, and hands-on projects completed by the Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (GaMEP) at Georgia Tech, part of the MEP National Network™. The General Manager of Plastic Colorants, Hudson Moody, has additionally worked to connect R&D from the Japanese parent company, Toyo Ink, with access to the latest research and technology through the Institute for Electronics and Nanotechnology.

After so many successful years working together, Ronnie Robertson, GM of Administration, said it was a "no brainer" to call Larry Alford, GaMEP south metro Atlanta region manager, and ask for help defining their goals for a sustainable business model and creating a strategic plan for the future.

**MEP CENTER'S ROLE.** Alford recommended the company use the Organizational Excellence assessment and framework to help prepare for future growth. The assessment allows companies to analyze each aspect of their business and how improvement efforts could be best aligned for success. The framework uses the information gathered in the assessment to make recommendations related to the four key pillars of Organizational Excellence: Business Health, Organizational Alignment, Leadership Development, and Forward Thinking. Alford and project manager, Mike Stonecipher, then began working through the steps of the Organizational Excellence assessment process with the company. Robertson said, "Larry and Mike probably could have walked right in and told us what we needed, but it made a big difference that we realized it ourselves through the assessment process. After talking with all levels of management and evaluating data throughout the plant, Alford and Stonecipher put together a report with recommendations throughout the four pillars of Organizational Excellence."

## RESULTS



Completed all four steps of the Organizational Excellence assessment process



Improved communication through Gemba walks, 5S reviews, and expansion of management reviews



Planned to start producing one of the new product lines discovered within one year.



Learned a new process for benchmarking that works well within a niche market.

## CONTACT US



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"We've worked with other consultants, but GaMEP at Georgia Tech, offers the best feedback and long-term relationship for generating real improvement."

-Ronnie Robertson, GM of Administration